assure that she would take up the matter with the Government so that the matter is discussed at the Government level. Thank you Sir.

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR (Uttar Pradeh): Sir, I would like to associate myself with the views of Shri Jibon Roy.

जो पेंशनर्स हैं उनका पहले भी सवाल उठा था कि उनको इंटरिम रिलीफ देना चाहिए । एक और बात की ओर मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान दिलाऊंगा कि जो गवर्नमेंट सर्वेंट्स हैं उनको भी इंटरिम रिलीफ देना आपने स्वीकार कर लिया है लेकिन पेमेंट नहीं कर रहे है । तो इंटरिम रिलीफ जो रिटायर्ड अफसर और जो पेंशनर्स हैं दोनों को देना चाहिए । मैं अपने मित्र से इस पर सहमत हूं ।

RE: EXPLOITATION OF INDIAN HOUSEMAIDS ABROAD, PARTICULARLY IN SINGAPORE

SHRI ASHOK MITRA (West Bengal): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, some weeks ago, there was a discussion in this House where much anger and anguish were expressed at the persecution and exploitation of women inside the country. The issue that arises is: Should we only concentrate on the exploitation of our women inside and should we be unmindful about the international exploitation of our women? I would like to invite the attention of the House to a news-item which I saw about a fortnight ago. An outfit "The Indian Personnel Export Promotion Council" —perhops it is formally approved by the Ministry of Commerce or not, I have no idea, but—has signed an agreement with the Government of Singapore to export 75,000 housemaids. If you take the total number of Indian housemaids outside the country, they do not add up to more than fifteen to twenty thousand. Suddenly there will be a fivefold increase in the number of poor women whom you send out to work as maids. What is the background? Most of the house maids in Singapore were, perhaps from the Philippines. One of these housemaids was hanged two months ago on the charge of a double murder. The Philippine maid was executed and there was quite a bit of turmoil in the Philippines. The Philippine people were convinced that this maid was unfairly charged and the trial was misdirected and they protested against the sentence. Nothing happened. The Singapore authorities hanged this woman. As a consequence there has been terrible tension between the Philippine and the Singapore Governments. The Ambassador of Philippines has been withdrawn from Singapore and all the maids that were working ther have also been repatriated. In this situation, there is a vacuum. Our Export Promotion Council is apparently wanting to take advantage of this vacuum. The question that is relevant is: Because there is globalisation, should we use our women, poor and helpless women, as international blacklegs and strike-breakers? There is also a political problem. It is a very sensitive political problem. We are friendly both to Singapore and the Philippines. If at this juncture we send these women out then we will be creating some misunderstanding between ourselves and the Philippines Government. Was this matter ever referred to the Ministry of External Affairs? This is a very sensitive issue and I wish there is somebody to mind the shop.

There is a second, and distasteful aspect of the whole episode. Singapore is next to a country—I don't want to name the country—which is known as the major clearing house for, what is known as, massage parlour girls. There has been a scare about AIDS in Thailand. So, Thailand has dropped

out of the picture and other countries which are next to Singapore are the major entrepots for this trade. I have no idea as to what exactly is happening. Has the Government at all taken minimal care to ensure that these helpless poor women of our country who are looking for jobs are not made victims of international exploitation in the name of export of housemaids.

This is I repeat, a very sensitive matter, It is so serious a matter that I wish there was some information as to what exactly is happening. Thank you.

श्रीमती सरला माहेश्वरी (पश्चिमी बंगाल) : माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, श्री अशोक मित्र जी ने जो महत्वपूर्ण सवाल उठाया है इससे पहले भी इस सवाल पर कई बार सदन का ध्यान आकर्षित किया गया है । उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं याद दिलाना चाहूंगी कि इससे पहले भी मैंने जिक्र किया था कि बीजिंग कांफ्रेंस के लिए हमारे देश से जो कंट्री पेपर तैयार किया गया है उसमें इस बात का उल्लेख किया गया है कि जो सरकार की नई आर्थिक नीति है, उस आर्थिक नीति का खास कर महिलाओं पर क्या प्रभाव पड़ रहा है और उस अध्ययन में इस बात को स्पष्ट तौर पर यह नोट करके कहा गया है कि नई आर्थिक नीति चलते महिलाओं का शोषण बढ़ रहा है और खास कर उन देशों में, जैसे कि जिस थाईलैंड देश का जिक्र किया गया सैक्स टूरिज्म वहां पर बढ़ रहा है और हमारे देश की महिलाएं वहां पर निर्यात की जा रही हैं । हमारे माननीय वित्त मंत्री महोदय ने रुपये का जब अवमूल्यन किया तो यह आश्वासन दिया कि हम रुपये का अवमूल्यन इसलिए कर रहे हैं ताकि हमारे देश की चीजें सस्ती हो जाएं और हम उनका निर्यात कर सकें ।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Shrimati Maheshwari, you are only associating yourself, not making a speech.

श्रीमती सरला माहेश्वरी : बिल्कुल, बहुत संक्षेप में मैं कह रही हूं । जब रुपये का अवमूल्यन किया गया तो इस आधार पर कि हमारे देश की चीजें निर्यात की जायेंगी । मैं कहना यह चाहूंगी कि आपने रुपये का अवमूल्यन करके क्या हमारे देश की चीजों को निर्यात करने के नाम पर महिलाओं को ही चुना है ? क्या महिलाएं इस तरह निर्यात की जायेंगी ? क्या महिलाओं का इस तरह शोषण किया जाएगा ? उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, यह बहुत ही गंभीर बात है और मैं चाहूंगी कि पूरा सदन इस बात को देखे कि किस तरह यह इकोनोमिक लिबरलाइज़ेशन के नाम पर हमारी महिलाएं, संगठित क्षेत्र में तो वैसे ही काम नहीं कर रही हैं और जो असंगठित बेकार महिलाओं का हिस्सा है वह किस तरह शोषण का शिकार हो रहा है और इन देशों में भेजकर इनका किस तरह अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय शोषण किया जा रहा है । यह बहुत ही गंभीर बात है । हमारी सरकार इस पर नज़र देगी और इस पर जरूर एक पालिसी तैयार करनी चाहिए महिलाओं के लिए क्या इसका असर पड़ रहा है और किस तरह महिलाओं को रोका जाए । धन्यवाद ।

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र (बिहार) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मामला बहुत ही लज्जाजनक है । मैं सरकार से इतना ही अनुरोध करूंगा कि वह इसकी जांच कराए कहीं पर जा करके नौकरी करना कोई बुरी बात नहीं है । वह तो महिला या मर्द कोई भी कर सकता है । लेकिन इसका सैक्स एक्सप्लायटेशन हो रहा है जैसा कि कुछ अरब कंट्रीज में भी हम लोगों का हुआ करता है, तो मैं इसको बहुत ही लज्जाजनक समझता हूं । अभी हम गरीब हो सकते हैं, लेकिन हमारे देश की इज्जत दुनिया में किसी से कम नहीं है, बल्कि ऊंची है । इसलिए इतना ही अनुरोध है कि आप इसकी जांच करवाइये और सही बात का पता लगा करके सदन को सूचित कीजिए ।

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): Madam, I would

also like to endorse whatever has been said by Shri Ashok Mitra and Shrimati Sarala Maheshwari.

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MATI MARGART ALVA): Sir, this is an issue which is not limited only one particular country in the South East Asia. Yesterday, I read a detailed report on what is happening in Britain. Maids from Sri Lanka, India, Bangladesh and the Philipnes are taken on a certain contract and when they reach there, their passports are taken away by their employers. The contract are torn up and they are literally like, you know, undefined slave labour because they are under the total control of those who take them. An organisation has been established in Britain to protect the rights of these oversees maids and certain demands have been made to the British authorities to protect them. Therefore, I would like to say that we are also concerned with what is happening. The Minister of Labour, Mr. Sangma, is here and I am sure the Government will look into the complaints about our own women who are working outside, whether in the Middle-East, whether in Singapore or whether in Britain because this is an issue of protection of women, the weaker sections, who go out for employment. We are concerned and we will certainly look into it.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: The Labour Minister should react to this.

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): I agree with what you said.

RE. LARGE SCALE DEFAULTY BY NATIONALISED BANKS

SHRI K. R. MALKANI (Delhi): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, the way the nationalised banks are functioning in this country is not only scandalous, but it borders on the criminal Sometime back the Reserve Bank of India had notified all the nationalised banks that 5,729 individuals and companies had defaulted to the tune of Rs. 30,000 crores and that in future no loans should be given to these parties and no investments made in projects sanctioned by these companies. However, the same banks have invested Rs. 45,000 crores with these guilty companies and individuals. As a result of all this our banks have been losing year after year. Most of the banks are running into loss. In the year 1993-94, our nationalised banks ran up a loss of Rs. 4,668 crores while the foreign banks made huge profits to the tune of Rs. 573 crores in the same years. The point is: why the Government is not publishing the list if people who have defaulted. We have asked the hon. Finance Minister on the floor of the House, again and again, to publish this list. He talks of confidentiality between the bank and the customer. We are not asking for business secrets of these companies. But there are individuals and companies who borrow money and do not pay back. There cannot be any confidentiality between criminals and the police, the defaulters and the Government. If the Government is honest, if the Government believes in transparency it must make this list public. The Reserve Bank's list of all these 5.729 individuals and organisations must be made public. We know that when small people default, their names are hung up in the banks. But these criminals, the big sharks, are protected by the Government. We would like to know whether there is any allince between these business houses and certain elements in the Government. Year after year this has been going on. Has the Government taken any action against the bank directors